WE CLAIM

1. A method of installing a catenary cable of a catenary of a track, which comprises the following steps:

pulling the catenary cable from a storage drum with a given drum pull-off force;

guiding the catenary cable over winch wheels of a friction winch and subjecting the catenary cable to a given cable tension; and

passing the catenary cable from the friction winch onto a mounting roller with a pull-off resistance for producing an installation tension, generating the pull-off resistance with the friction winch and counteracting a pull-off force of the catenary cable, and thereby gradually increasing the cable tension between the winch wheels of the friction winch up to the pull-off resistance.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the catenary cable is a contact wire or a carrying cable wound upon the storage drum.

3. A machine for installing a catenary cable of a catenary of a track, the machine comprising:

a machine frame extending in a longitudinal direction and supported by undercarriages for mobility on the track;

a storage drum mounted on said machine frame and carrying the catenary cable;

a mounting roller, supported for vertical adjustment on said machine frame, for guiding the catenary cable into an installation position; and

a friction winch, disposed between said storage drum and said mounting roller in a winding direction of the catenary cable, for producing a pull-off resistance counteracting a pull-off force acting upon the catenary cable, thus creating an installation tension when the catenary cable is pulled from the storage drum, said friction winch including four winch wheels rotatable independently of one another about respective axes of rotation, and with two winch wheels each disposed in a common plane to form a wheel pair.

4. The machine according to claim 3, wherein said friction winch comprises two mutually parallel wheel pairs, each comprising two winch wheels disposed one following the other in the longitudinal direction.

5. The machine according to claim 4, wherein each of said wheel pairs includes a front winch wheel and a rear winch wheel, and wherein said front winch wheels of said two wheel pairs are mounted on a common axis of rotation and said rear winch wheels of said two wheel pairs are mounted on a common axis of rotation, and said axes of rotation extend transversely to the longitudinal direction.

6. The machine according to claim 3, which further comprises separate hydraulic motors respectively associated with a second winch wheel, a third winch wheel, and a fourth winch wheel with regard to a winding direction of the catenary cable.

7. The machine according to claim 6, wherein said hydraulic motors have mutually different fluid displacement capacity.

8. The machine according to claim 6, which further comprises a control system connected to said hydraulic motors and configured to actuate said hydraulic motors separately and with different operating pressures.

9. The machine according to claim 6, wherein said hydraulic motors each possesses a respectively different maximum torque, and said maximum torque increases in the winding direction of the catenary cable.

10. The machine according to claim 3, wherein each said winch wheel is formed with a cable groove for receiving the catenary cable, and said cable groove of a second and a third said winch wheel, relative to the winding direction of the catenary cable, is wider than said cable groove of a first and a fourth said winch wheel.

11. The machine according to claim 3, which further comprises a support frame for supporting said storage drum together with said winch wheels, said support frame being mounted on said machine frame for pivoting relative thereto with the aid of a drive about an axis extending in the longitudinal direction.